

## SUGGESTION SHEET 2.3

### *How Do I Write Placement Objectives?*

There are different ways of writing clinical placement objectives. They can be written either as general objectives, as specific weekly behavioural objectives or as competency objectives (Clinical Placement Advisory Committee [CPAC], 1997). Here are some examples of each.

#### General placement objectives :

- Overall objectives relevant to the general caseload and practices at your facility;
- can be written prior to the student arriving (see example).
- Can be modified or further elaborated in collaboration with student in respect of their prior experience, knowledge, interests and abilities.

*For example :* To develop skills in planning, implementing and evaluating a therapy program for clients of the outpatients rehabilitation service, with supervision.

#### Weekly objectives:

- can be written as behavioural objectives, stating **what** skill you want the student to acquire, **when** they should be able to demonstrate that skill and **how well and given what conditions** the student will demonstrate the learning

*For example :*

Week one : The student will observe the therapist conduct a daily living skills functional assessment of a client following CVA, and identify client functional strengths and weaknesses through discussion afterwards.

Or

- can be written as a general objective for the week with a list of several criteria that demonstrate what is required to meet the objective

*For example :*

Week four : By the end of the week the student...

- a) will have attended at least two client living skills group, providing assistance with set-up, demonstrating appropriate interactions with staff and clients.
- b) Will have demonstrated independence in planning and facilitation of part of a living skills group session.
- c) Will have planned and effectively implemented and interpreted formal and informal methods of evaluation for the group session.

#### Competency Objectives

- Organised into areas of competence such as 'professional behaviour', 'self-management', 'communication skills', 'clinical skills', 'documentation'

*For example:*

Professional Behaviour: By the end of the placement the student will appropriately demonstrate the following professional practices and behaviours:

- Respect for values, beliefs, needs and priorities of clients and staff
- Ability to maintain confidentiality of written and reported client information.
- Appropriate representation of Occupational Therapy
- Attention and adherence to workplace protocols, policies and procedures.

Refer to the general learning objectives of the placement subjects set by the University as a basis for setting your practice-specific objectives.

Decide on a minimal level of performance appropriate to the student's year level by reviewing the expected skill level and knowledge of students outlined by the University.

Refer to your list of learning opportunities offered at your centre and write some objectives around them.

*Reference:*

CPAC (1997). *Clinical Supervisor's Survival Kit. . A resource handbook for Occupational Therapists supervising students on placement.* University of Queensland. Division of Occupational Therapy. Australia.